

## Legislative work—cont.'d

accounts established by the Health Savings and Affordability Act provide millions of Americans with a tax-free savings opportunity for health expenses including deductibles, premiums, co-pays and other out-of-pocket expenses.

### Honoring Events

Commemorating the special events taking place in the Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park on August 23, 2003, Congressman Nunes submitted comments into the Congressional Record. Summary follows:

“Born in Kentucky during the Civil War to the parents of former slaves in 1864, Charles Young became only the third African-American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 10th U.S. Cavalry. In the year 1903, then Captain Charles Young was in charge of the 9th U.S. Cavalry and had been assigned the duty of “Acting Superintendent” of the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. That early summer Captain Young led his “Buffalo Soldiers” out of the cold and fog shrouded Presidio in San Francisco en route to the high sierras of Central California. With this assignment, Captain Young not only became the first African American superintendent in the U.S. Park Service history but

also became the driving force in forging what would become today, one of the most visited and highly recognized parks in the world. During his tenure as superintendent, Colonel Young discovered and named a majestic Giant Sequoia after an individual that inspired and influenced his life, Booker T. Washington.”

### Housing

Homeownership is an important part of the American Dream. All too often, this dream cannot be realized due to the costs of building, expensive down payments and mortgage insurance. Consequently, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored two bills that would help alleviate these costs and help more Americans become homeowners. The Renewing the Dream Tax Credit Act, H.R. 839, would bridge the gap between the cost of developing or rehabilitating a home and the price at which the home can be sold to low-income buyers. This would be done by offering homebuilders tax credits of up to 50 percent of the development costs as an incentive to build/rehabilitate homes in the more economically distressed areas. The other piece of legislation, would deliver some tax relief to these new homeowners. The Deductibility of Mortgage Insurance Act, H.R. 1336, would allow home-mortgage insurance premiums to be tax deductible.

### Judicial



### Abortion

As we all know, parental consent is required for numerous things, such as administering medication at school, ear piercing, and field trips. Many states have laws that require parental notification of their child receiving an abortion. As a pro-life advocate, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 1489, the Parental Notification and Intervention Act. This legislation would create a federal law stating that no physician may perform an abortion on a minor unless that physician has given four days notice to both parents or the legal guardian of the minor. Furthermore, at any time either parent or guardian may object and stop the abortion.

### Federal Law Enforcement Officers Pay

Congressman Nunes is a strong supporter of our federal law enforcement officers. Unfortunately, the salaries paid to federal agents pale in comparison to those paid to detectives in state and local police departments. This has hurt

many of the federal agencies from recruiting top-caliber academy graduates throughout the country, and especially in the San Joaquin Valley. In an effort to address this disparity Congressman Nunes has co-sponsored H.R. 466, the Federal Law Enforcement Locality Pay Adjustment Act. This legislation will ease the pay disparities for federal agents by increasing the locality pay adjustments. In addition, H.R. 466 will help all thirty-two federal pay districts—thus no longer excluding the San Joaquin Valley.

### Methamphetamine

In an effort to increase funding for the methamphetamine fight in the San Joaquin Valley, Congressman Nunes, in a letter to Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), urged him to increase the base line budget of the Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) by \$1.5 million. Furthermore, he requested that ONDCP

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